



MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 500 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E8 - (403) 502-8071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 3, 2007

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CITY INVEST IN DOWNTOWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Medicine Hat – The City Centre Ad Hoc Committee believes the City of Medicine Hat should get into the property development business.

The committee's recommendation received City Council's approval Monday night. In November 2006, City Council set up a City Centre Ad Hoc Committee to examine and provide a recommendation to encourage investment in the Medicine Hat city centre.

"The Committee felt that the community and, in particular, the downtown business and property owners are very ready for downtown growth and revitalization," said Chairman Alderman Darren Hirsch. "The local economy is really rolling and it's time that strong economic growth is reflected in our city centre."

The Committee's recommendation includes:

- The City redeveloping an existing property or developing a new project in the city centre using "Smart Growth" principles. In addition, the Committee encouraged the City to consider partnerships, incentives and/or alternatives to ensure the project proceeds.
- The City implementing specific physical development guidelines that will provide direction to future development projects in the city centre.
- The City moving quickly on its commitment to do a Downtown Redevelopment Study.

"The City Centre Ad Hoc Committee focused its recommendations on a specific action it felt would create a "tipping point" that would engage the community and cause private investment to occur," added Hirsch. "The Committee has delivered on its mandate and hopes the City will take immediate action on our recommendation."

Aldermen Hirsch, Graham Kelly and Bill Cocks, along with seven public members representing downtown business owners, property owners, developers, downtown residents, the City Centre Development Agency and the community make up the committee. The public members are Joanne Birtz, Bruce Dynes, Craig Elder, Val Fraser, Jacquie Penner, Eric Solberg, and Eric Springman.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

Alderman Darren Hirsch
 City Council
 City of Medicine Hat
 (403) 528-3773

Jody Lamb
 Corporate Communications Manager
 City of Medicine Hat
 (403) 502-8071

